ESI Hospitals functioning in Gujarat

3604. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of ESI hospitals functioning in Gujarat at present with details of each such hospital and number of workers and their families being catered by each hospital;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the number of ESI hospitals in the State to cover all the workers in their ambit; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The ESI Corporation has constructed and commissioned eleven hospitals *i.e.* three at Ahmedabad, two at Baroda and one each at Kalol, Surat, Rajkot, Bhav Nagar, Vapi and Jam Nagar in Gujarat. Bed strength of three hospitals varies from 30 to 600. Based on the prescribed norm of 4 beds per thousand insured persons, normally a 50 bedded hospital is required to cater to 12,500 Insured Persons and their families.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Amendment of Factories Act, 1948

3605. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Faciories Act, 1948 to allow women to work on the late night shift;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) A proposal for amendment in the Factories Act, 1948 to provide for employment of women in the night shifts in certain selected areas/activities, with proper safeguards, is being examined in consultation with the representatives of the Central Trade Union Organisations and the employers' Organisations. As the proposal is still in the consultation stage, no details have been finalised so far.